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Letter dated 27 July 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 24 July 1998 (A/52/993-S/1998/693), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 25 July 1998.

On that day, six Turkish military aircraft escorting a VIP plane, which was carrying the Turkish President, entered the northern Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations and of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus. The VIP airplane landed at the illegal airport of Tymbou, whereas the six military aircraft returned back to the Ankara flight information region.

In the afternoon of the same day six Turkish military aircraft entered the northern Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations. Four of them escorted the Turkish President's VIP plane, which had departed the illegal Tymbou airport, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus. All six military aircraft together with the VIP plane carrying the Turkish President returned back to the Ankara flight information region.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish once more to protest strongly these repeated provocative acts by Turkey, a State Member of the United Nations, against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. They expose once more that country's systematic disregard of the norms of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Agis LOIZOU
Chargé d'affaires a.i.